

# SBARA GROUNDPLANE

Volume 16 Issue 4 April, 2016

## SBARA Groundplane - President's Message



Welcome to April 2016! As many of you know, I do like to write. But I also like using photos or other images to help spice up an article. So this column will be no exception. And...as you read through this article...you might notice a theme. Hmmm...what could that theme be?

What possibly could gum, Tylenol, a radio station in Champaign, Illinois, a customer appreciation slogan for Raley's, Belair, & Nob Hill markets, cheese, a newspaper carrier, beer, or olive oil have to do with amateur radio?



As I have written before, it was my godfather, K6KLL, who got me interested in ham radio and gave me my first mobile rig...a Yaesu FT-7100M. He is a retired broadcast engineer and member of the Broadcast Legends.

I got my Technician Class license in July of 2001. I was so excited that I immediately bought a Ken-



wood TS-450S for HF from Rudi Wiedemann, a former SBARA member, before he moved to Reno. My plan was to get my General Class license right away., but life got in the way, and the TS-450S was ignored, until September 2010 when I got my General Class license.

I have really enjoyed HF and look forward to doing more of it as I learn more about contesting, IOTA, SOTA, and DXpeditions. I dream of a bigger HF antenna one day, but that doesn't seem to meet the WAF (wife approval factor). One ham suggested that I get a tower, disguise it as a tree, and ensure the antenna is above the trees so she won't see it. Hmmm...I don't think that idea will work.



So what is this all leading up to? Was the theme obvious enough?



Yes...FINALLY...I passed my Extra Class exam on 3/12. Thanks to the ARRL-affiliated TriCity VE Group! On 3/23, the FCC ULS database reflected my new operator class of Amateur Extra. Yay. [NOTE: The secret word for a free raffle ticket at the next SBARA meeting is "Extra." Write this word down on a piece of paper and hand it in at the raffle table for a free ticket.

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### Special points of interest:

- Friendly Elmer Story



Limit one ticket per person.] We can finally put this topic to rest. So now, as a VE, I can correct any class of exam, I am no longer restricted to the "Extra" portions of the bands, SBARA meeting attendees will have to find a different topic to tease me about, and I have honored my elmer and dear godfather in the process! Thank you all for your support!



73!

Steve KG6HJU



## 2016 ARRL Field Day is June 25-26

The largest annual on-air event in all of Amateur Radio returns June 25 & 26, 2016!

SBARA will be participating at Lake Elizabeth in Fremont's Central Park for the Annual event. Why don't you come and join us? We have a good time operating and we enjoy the social aspects of Field Day also! The City of Fremont even lets us Camp-Out overnight Friday and Saturday!

We usually have a nice Dinner on Saturday, watch the upcoming News regarding the upcoming ARRL Field Day event and SBARA's participation!



Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday. Field Day 2016 is June 25-26.

### **SBARA Radio in the Park - Saturday, April 23rd - 11am to 3pm**

Since we had so much fun last year, we are going to do it again! The plan, again, is to do a mini Field Day with only a few stations setup at Lake Elizabeth near the parking lot at Sailway Drive and Paseo Padre Pkwy. Expect, at a

minimum, stations for HF and VHF/UHF. Last year, many brought out antennas, radios, and other projects to share and test. The more the merrier! We'll have sandwiches, snacks, and water. Please come out and join us! It's a lot of fun with a lot less setup overhead compared to Field Day!

## ARISS Celebrates its 1000th Educational Amateur Radio Contact

ARISS celebrated 15 years of a permanent ham radio presence in space last December.



In 2000, several pupils and a teacher got to chat on 2 meters with the first ISS Commander, William "Shep" Shepherd, KD5GSL. Since that first ARISS school contact, astronauts and cosmonauts aboard the station have talked with students in 44 states in the US and in 51 other countries.

Celebrate with Video Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS), the first-ever ISS payload activated by the crew, is gearing up for its 1000th educational ham radio contact in March. A video jointly produced by ARRL, NASA, and AMSAT, titled, "[Celebrating the 1000th Contact](#),"

has been posted on YouTube.

## HAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Primavera Century Bike Ride - Sunday, April 17th!

Just a reminder that Tony Flusche (AB6BR) is still looking for volunteers for the Fremont Free-wheelers (FFBC) sponsored bike ride. This bike ride has several routes that range from a 25 mile fun ride to a 100 mile century. HAM operators are critical to provide communications for the event. Some operators are posted at rest stops and others are mobile (paired with a SAG (Support and Gear) or self contained. There are even a few ham radio-equipped motorcycle riders who contribute to the event.

You can sign up for a morning or afternoon shift...or both. Plan to use your own gear! It's a great opportunity to exercise your ham radio skills...AND...it's a lot of fun! Please look for more information and sign up online at:

<https://ffbcprimavera.wordpress.com/volunteers/>

Contact Tony Flusche for questions or additional information at: [ab6br@arrl.net](mailto:ab6br@arrl.net)



## Elmer Award

Elmering or mentoring has long been the backbone of Amateur Radio. While technology constantly evolves, the human interaction between hams will not be replaced and will always remain one of the hobby's strongest traditions. As licensed hams we are all ambassadors of Amateur Radio and we should always be looking at ways in which we can welcome newly licensed hams and project a positive image that will attract others to ham radio.

Use the following link to send your own Elmer Award to someone who has helped you with the hobby of ham radio: <http://www.arrl.org/elmer-award>

## Origin of the term "Elmer"

The term "Elmer"—meaning someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would-be hams—first appeared in *QST* in a March 1971 "How's DX" column by Rod Newkirk, W9BRD (now also VA3ZBB). Newkirk called them "the unsung fathers of Amateur Radio." While he probably was not trying to coin a term at the time, here's how Newkirk introduced "Elmer" in his column and, as it turned out, to the rest of the Amateur Radio world:

"Too frequently one hears a sad story in this little nutshell: 'Oh, I almost got a ticket, too, but Elmer, W9XYZ, moved away and I kind of lost interest.'"

Newkirk went on to say, "We need those Elmers. All the Elmers, including the ham who took the most time and trouble to give *you* a push toward your license, are the birds who keep this great game young and fresh."—*Rick Lindquist, N1RL*

As you can see, the term is not very old. Prior to the first use of Elmer as the one who guided and



## IMPORTANT AMATUER RADIO WEB PAGE LINKS

[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)  
[www.colpage.org](http://www.colpage.org)  
[www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com)  
[www.dailydx.com](http://www.dailydx.com)  
[www.twit.tv/hn](http://www.twit.tv/hn)  
[www.dxspots.com](http://www.dxspots.com)

SBARA Membership meeting Friday,  
April 8th, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

Hurricane Electric, 760 Mission Court  
(off of Warm Springs Blvd), Fremont  
Join us at 6:00 p.m. for the pre-  
meeting dinner at; Ho Chow Restau-  
rant, 47966 Warm Springs Blvd,  
Fremont. (510) 657-0683



SBARA [Ham Radio License Exam](#) date  
is April 9th Saturday at 9am—Noon.

**Testing Location:**  
Hurricane Electric  
48233 Warm Springs Boulevard  
Fremont, CA  
(Additional parking on the South side of the building)

## Nets and other Club Information

### The Slow CW Net

Every Thursday (on 144.230 MHz) and Sunday (on 7.057 MHz +/- 3 KHz) night at 7:30 pm.

You need an "all-mode" transceiver in order to participate in this net.. The net now has its own email address. Please contact us here: : "SF Bay CW Enthusiasts" <sf-bay-cw-enthusiasts at googlegroups.com>

—... — Bernhard AE6YN

### Monday SBARA Net

The SBARA net takes place every Monday night at 7:30 pm on the WA6PWW repeater, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, PL (if enabled) 103.5 Hz.

Topics are club related things, projects you're working on and so on. It's a chat net. We need net control operators. If you'd like to be net control, let us know during the next net.

—... — Bernhard AE6YN

[SBARA.ORG](http://SBARA.ORG) has a new look and some updated content. Navigation follows the known style - information about the club can be accessed via the (black) menu bar at the top and the navigation bar on the left links to various topics of interest to the club. The Contact Us page provides easy access any of the board members and activity chairs, when you have a question or would like something to be included, changed and if a link is not working. The new layout is mobile friendly, making it easier to browse the website on tablet sized and smart phone sized mobile devices. I hope you enjoy the new website.